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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE

Improvement of Living Conditions in Suburban Areas
(Supplementary Assistance (MOZ/75/021))

Report of the Administrator

Date of present approval:	June 1978
Starting date of project activities:	September 1976 (including previous assistance)
Planned completion date:	December 1979
To be executed by:	United Nations
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Public Works and Housing
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$518 400
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. In the last few years preceding independence in 1975 most of the major cities in Mozambique experienced tremendous, but uncontrolled growth. This was precipitated largely by the former Portuguese Administration's effort to relocate rural populations into "aldeamentos" established in peripheral city areas. As a result, unsanitary slum conditions developed especially around Lourenço Marques and Beira, exacerbating the already severe disparities in the living standards of the urban dwellers.

2. In view of the prevailing urban housing problem in Mozambique and the limited unavailability of financial and technical resources, a policy of self-help housing was initiated in 1976 with United Nations/UNDP assistance. In June 1975, UNDP approved assistance to the present project[1/] for a duration of two years with the objective of providing immediate assistance to the Government of Mozambique in the field of housing and related physical planning. Simple pre-fabrication systems, traditional and

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conventional construction methods were experimented with in order to gain experience and to establish a National Housing Programme. A core-house construction approach had to be abandoned as it proved too expensive. Proto-type housing designs are at present being prepared and intermediate technology and traditional building methods have been utilized. Construction workshops will be established in Beira and Maputo where individuals can rent or borrow tools or equipment for the construction of their houses. Co-operatives for the production of pre-fabricated building elements and block-making are also being examined. The UNDP-assisted project has re-inforced the National Housing Directorate. Basic to the development of a housing programme in Mozambique is the question of housing finance and the project is to help establish a housing bank and loan policies. To develop the capacity of the National Housing Directorate to carry out these activities and to move from the previous "emergency" situation towards pilot interventions aimed at policy formulation, the Government requested an extension of UNDP assistance through 1979.

II. Objectives and activities

3. The immediate objectives of the project remain to strengthen the capacity of the National Housing Directorate to deal with the housing problems on a national scale. The supplementary assistance now approved will enable the Directorate to develop and launch pilot operations in the following areas: (a) slum upgrading; (b) self-help housing based on the improvement of traditional and conventional methods; (c) self-help housing based on simple prefabrication methods; and (d) community development with emphasis on social planning.

III. Inputs

4. Under the assistance now approved UNDP will provide, through the Executing Agency, the services of one site engineer, one urban development adviser, one architect, consultants in prototype housing development, loan administration (Housing Bank), policy development, (Housing Bank), and United Nations Volunteers in cartography, building techniques and auto-mechanics. UNDP will also finance fellowships and equipment for the project.

5. To carry out the activities for which assistance is now approved, the Government of Mozambique will make available the necessary professional and support personnel including carpenters, masons, workshop workers and service personnel, as well as provide office space and equipment, including construction equipment and vehicles in Maputo, Beira, Pemba and Angoche.

IV. Financial data

6. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	Previously approved $	Present approval $	Total approved $
Personnel	96 000	516 200	612 200
Training	10 000	12 000	22 000
Equipment	801 400	(2 100)	799 300
Miscellaneous	62 000	(7 700)	54 300
	969 400	518 400	1 487 800

7. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $25,040,000 in kind.

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